Weisberg won't rush for House report

7-18-79

By LUCIAN WARREN
Washington Correspondent
The Frederick News-Post

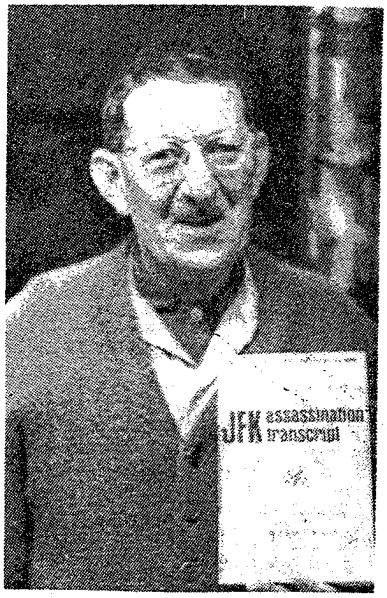
WASHINGTON — One man who is not rushing today (Wednesday) to get a copy of the final report of the House Assassinations Committee is Harold Weisberg of Frederick, the author of a half-dozen books on the John Kennedy and Martin Luther King assassinations.

Weisberg told *The Frederick News-Post* Tuesday there will be "absolutely nothing new" in the committee's report.

The committee's investigation, he said, was improperly conducted and the end product will be "hurtful to the country."

Instead of investigating whether the executive branch of the government had functioned as it should in the two assassination cases, "it wasted the largest appropriations for any Congressional committee in the history of Congress" by "star chamber proceedings that got nowhere," he declared.

Much of the investigation's hearings were held behind closed doors, he said, "because they couldn't stand public scrutiny."



Harold Weisberg

the FBI for failure to obtain evidence that Weisberg was able to dig up on his own.

Weisberg said the saddest thing about the failure of the massive House investigation is the lame result which have disillusioned many Americans, especially young people, about the inept way the federal government conducted itself in the matter.

Testimony from James Earl Ray, the convicted killer of King, was held in open session, enabling the committee to "make a public spectacle of Ray," but otherwise it gained no useful information, the Frederick man declared.

Weisberg is mentioned nowhere in the committee's final report, a 686-page printed volume, which reiterates its preliminary findings of early January that John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King were probably the victims of conspiracies rather than just lone assassins.

The committee early on obtained copies of the Weisberg books and consulted with him before holding hearings, but has otherwise ignored the expertise he gained from his own investigations into the cases.

Weisberg, considered the "dean" of private investigators questioning the conclusions of the Warren Commission's report, is known to be among the first to develop possible evidence of an acoustical nature indicating shots were fired at John Kennedy from a grassy knoll area along Kennedy's Dallas motorcade route in addition to those fired by Lee Harvey Oswald from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository.

Rep. Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., chairman of the subcommittee investigating the Kennedy assassination, during the course of the hearings chided